

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented): A method of extracting related information from electronic files, wherein each file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data, the method comprising:
 - a) in response to a user input that designates at least one field as a key segment, wherein a key segment comprises a field having pre-populated data and wherein the key segment field is common to each of a plurality of the records, comparing data contained in the key segment of each record of a first file to data in a related key segment of each record of a second file;
 - b) upon each occurrence of a match of data in the key segment of a record in the first file to data in the related key segment of a record in the second file, creating a record in a temporary electronic file, wherein the record in the temporary file includes at least one field and wherein the at least one field includes a copy of the matching data from the;
 - c) selecting data from the temporary file; and
 - d) outputting the selected data.
2. (Original): The method recited in claim 1, further comprising thereafter deleting the temporary file.
3. (Original): The method recited in claim 1, further comprising:
for additional files, repeating steps a), b) and c) using an additional file as the first file and the temporary file as the second file.
4. (Original): The method recited in claim 1, wherein the first file is stored in electronic form on magnetic tape.

5. (Original): The method recited in claim 1, wherein the first file is stored in electronic form on media selected from a group consisting of solid state memory, magnetic disk memory, and optical memory.

6. (Original): The method recited in claim 1, further comprising sorting the records of the first file based on data contained in the key segment.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein a record of the temporary file created upon a match of data between records in the first and second files contains less than all of the data from the matching records of the first and second files.

8. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting data from the records of the temporary file based in part on logic operators.

9. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the logic operators are selected from a group consisting of less than, greater than, equal to, not-equal-to, less-than-or-equal-to, greater-than-or-equal-to, in and not in.

10. (Previously Presented): A system for extracting related information from electronic files, comprising:

a processor;

a storage device;

an output device;

a first electronic file stored on the storage device, wherein the first electronic file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data; and

a second electronic file stored on the storage device, wherein the second electronic file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data;

wherein the processor is configured to respond to an input that designates at least one field as a key segment by comparing data contained in the key segment of each record of the

first file to data in a related key segment of each record of the second file, wherein a key segment comprises a field having pre-populated data and wherein the key segment field is common to each of a plurality of the records;

wherein the processor is further configured such that upon each occurrence of a match of data in the key segment of a record in the first file to data in the related key segment of a record in the second file, the processor causes a record in a temporary electronic file to be created, wherein the record in the temporary file includes at least one field and wherein the at least one field includes a copy of the matching data from the first and second files; and

wherein the processor is further configured to select data from the temporary file and output the data to the output device.

11. (Original): The system of claim 10 wherein the processor is further configured to thereafter delete the temporary file.

12. (Original): The system of claim 10, wherein the first file is stored on the storage device on magnetic tape.

13. (Original): The system of claim 10, wherein the first file is stored on the storage device on media selected from a group consisting of solid state memory, magnetic disk memory, and optical memory.

14. (Original): The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further configured to sort the records of the first file based on data contained in the key segment.

15. (Original): The system of claim 10, wherein a record of the temporary file created upon a match of data between records in the first and second files contains less than all of the data from the records of the first and second files.

16. (Original): The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is further configured to select data from records of the temporary file based in part on logic operators.

17. (Original): The system of claim 16, wherein the logic operators are selected from a group consisting of less than, greater than, equal to, not-equal-to, less-than-or-equal-to, greater-than-or-equal-to, in and not in.

18. (Previously Presented): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

- a) receiving instructions identifying two or more electronic files from which to extract related information, wherein each file includes a plurality of records and wherein each record includes at least one field for containing data;
- b) receiving instructions that designate at least one field in the first file to be a key segment and that designate at least one field in the second file to be a related key segment, wherein a key segment comprises a field having pre-populated data and wherein the key segment field is common to each of a plurality of the records;
- c) comparing data contained in the key segment of each record of the first file to data contained in the related key segment of each record of the second file;
- d) upon each occurrence of a match of data in the key segment of a record in the first file to data in the related key segment of a record in the second file, creating a record in a temporary electronic file, wherein the record in the temporary file includes at least one field and wherein the at least one field includes a copy of the matching data from the first and second files;
- e) receiving instructions identifying data to be selected from the temporary file;
- f) selecting the data from the temporary file; and
- g) outputting the data.

19. (Original): The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes thereafter deleting the temporary file.

20. (Original): The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes: for additional files, repeating steps a), b), c) and d) using an additional file as the first file and the temporary file as the second file.

21. (Original): The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes sorting the records of the first file based on data contained in the key segment.

22. (Original): The medium of claim 18, wherein the method further includes selecting data from records of the temporary file based in part on logic operators.

23. (Original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the logic operators are selected from a group consisting of less than, greater than, equal to, not-equal-to, less-than-or-equal-to, greater-than-or-equal-to, in and not in.

24. (Canceled)